

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

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LONDON OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD—NO. 46 FLEET STREET. Subscriptions and Advertisements will be received and forwarded on the same terms as in New York.

VOLUME XL. . . . . NO. 5

## AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue.—LITTLE EMILY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Rowe.

ROMAN HIPPODROME, Twenty-sixth street and Fourth avenue.—BLUE BEARD and FINE FOLK, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

TIVOLI THEATRE, Eighth street.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-eighth street and Broadway.—THE FAITHFUL, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss Carola Leclercq, Mr. Louis James.

BRANT'S OPERA HOUSE, West Twenty-third street near Sixth avenue.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M. Dan Bryant.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, Fourteenth street.—Open from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

NIBLO'S, Broadway.—JACK AND JILL, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

BROOKLYN THEATRE, Washington street.—THE NEW PAY OLD DEBTS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. E. L. Davenport.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, Broadway, corner of Twenty-third street.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.

ROBINSON HALL, Sixteenth street.—BEGONE DULL CARE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Macabae.

GLOBE THEATRE, Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE, ULANCARTY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Edwin Adams.

LYCUM THEATRE, Fourteenth street and Sixth avenue.—TWIXT AXE AND CROWN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mrs. Rosbury.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE SHADDOCKS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Boncourt.

WOODS MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Third street.—SMOKE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. W. T. Melville.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE, No. 506 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, Bowery.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

PARK THEATRE, Broadway, between Twenty-third and Twenty-second streets.—GILDED AGE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. John T. Raymond.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, No. 626 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be cold and clear.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Stocks were moderately active, with irregular and generally lower prices. Gold opened at 113 and receded to 112½. Foreign exchange was steady. Money on call loans ranged from 5 to 7 per cent.

THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS gave its complimentary nomination for the Speakership to General Husted, the popular and estimable Speaker of the last Assembly—a compliment well bestowed.

THE DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS at Albany last evening was careful not to break the prearranged Tammany slate. Maguire was nominated for Speaker and Calkins for Clerk, as everybody expected, demonstrating the futility of the rural protests against Tammany dictation.

THE BECHER TRIAL was begun yesterday, or, to speak more accurately, the preliminaries to the trial were entered upon. Several days are likely to pass before the proceedings will have much interest, owing to the difficulty of procuring a jury. Out of the first panel of five hundred it is not expected that the full twelve can be made up, and another large panel has been ordered. It will not be easy to find twelve reputable citizens of Brooklyn who have not already decided in their own minds the question of Mr. Becher's guilt or innocence.

WALKING WITH GOD has commonly been taken as a figurative expression to designate a life of piety; but at the Methodist preachers' meeting Dr. Curry interpreted it as meaning that the physical act of walking is peculiarly acceptable to the Divine Being. Enoch walked with God three hundred years, says this erudite expounder, and he testified that he never has such a real sense of the divine presence as when walking in his room or in the streets. What a marvel of godliness Weston must be if walking is a form of worship!

THE SENATE FINANCE BILL seems likely to pass the House on grounds of party expediency. It is well ascertained that the republican infatigables will abate no jot nor tittle of what the bill gives them, and will permit no amendments. It will be a saving of time, then, to gag discussion in the House, as was done in the Senate, and force it through by the sheer power of party votes. Its passage will do no good and little harm. If it were probable that there would be considerable issues of bank notes under it it ought to be so amended as to forbid a reissue of the retired greenbacks; but as the law, if it passes, is likely to prove a dead letter, amendments are of no consequence. It is only a party manoeuvre, and in no proper sense a measure of finance.

## Mayor Wickham's Message.

The keynote of this clear, business-like document is a strenuous assertion of the right of the city to the perfect control of its local government, claiming for the Common Council, now reduced to a single branch, full powers of municipal legislation. Meanwhile he calls on the Common Council to exercise such authority as the charter gives it, which is adequate, as he thinks, for establishing great improvements in the city government. He recognizes "the present general dissatisfaction with the management of the departments," and asks the Common Council "to enact such provisions as may enable the Mayor to require, and, if need be, compel from the several heads of departments such an administration of the affairs of the city committed to their charge as will lead to greater efficiency and a reduction of expense." We infer that Mayor Wickham, if properly supported by the Common Council, sees his way to such a control of the departments as will make him an efficient executive and not a mere figurehead. He intends to "require" and, if need be, to "compel" the heads of departments to discharge their duties, not according to their individual discretion, but in compliance with the Mayor's judgment. We rejoice that the Mayor has taken this high ground in asserting his just authority over the municipal administration, and as the credit and reputation of the Common Council are at stake as well as his own there is no good reason to doubt that he will secure their co-operation in reforming the abuses and curbing the eccentricities which prevail in some of the departments. The charter explicitly confers on the Common Council power to enact ordinances for regulating, perfecting and carrying out the powers and duties prescribed to any department. If any head of a department refuses to obey such ordinances, that will be a sufficient cause for the Mayor to exercise his power of removal.

Mayor Wickham does not leave it doubtful as to which of the departments deserves his censure and most needs a reforming hand. "The time has arrived," the Mayor says, "when the actual financial condition of the city should be ascertained and published in detail." It is easy to see how this reflects on the studied concealments and subterfuges of the head of the Finance Department, who has for three years kept the people and the other city officers in ignorance of our financial condition. "The taxpayers," continues the Mayor, "should be in possession of the fullest information on this subject, without which it will be impossible to devise measures of relief." Further on in the Message, after complaining of the defective and worthless character of all the financial reports he has seen, and the necessity of such information at regular and frequent periods, the Mayor adds, "A first step toward furnishing such periodical information is the preparation, at as early a day as possible, of a balance sheet showing the financial position of the city at the close of the past year; and I shall heartily co-operate with you in whatever measures may be necessary to procure such a balance sheet." This is an unveiled expression of want of confidence in the present Comptroller and of the hopelessness of expecting from him a truthful and accurate balance sheet. There would be no necessity for calling on the Common Council to exert its authority for such a purpose if the Comptroller were disposed to do his duty. It is too evident that the new Mayor and the insubordinate Comptroller, whom he thus publicly puts beyond the pale of his confidence, cannot go on together in the same government. If the Comptroller insolently refuses the correct balance sheet, which the Mayor asks the Common Council to assist him in compelling, Mr. Green will either resign or be promptly removed. He must already see that it is impossible for him to remain in office, and he had better forestall his removal by a resignation.

As the Department of Finance is the grand pivot on which the whole municipal machinery turns we will pursue this subject a little further before noticing other topics of the Message; for the Mayor finds it impossible to lay down a correct policy without a clearly implied condemnation of the action of the Comptroller at almost every step. The following passage, for example, has no pertinence except as a censure of Comptroller Green:—"This legacy of the past can form no proper excuse or pretext for forcing current claims against the city to be put into litigation before the creditor can secure the amount to which he is justly entitled." This is a palpable condemnation of the Comptroller's vexatious lawsuits. The Mayor proceeds to say that, while he will resist all improper claims, he will "secure to every honest creditor a speedy settlement of his claim. It shall be my endeavor to see that no unnecessary delay takes place in passing upon claims, and as to just claims, vexatious and costly litigation will not be permitted." This assurance can only be regarded as a rebuke to the contrary practice of the Comptroller.

Another part of the Message which crosses the policy of Comptroller Green is that in which the Mayor favors the prosecution of public improvements. His appointment of William R. Martin as a Park Commissioner was a condemnation in advance of Green's policy of suffocation. Green has constantly done all in his power to obstruct Commissioner Van Nort, and it is well known that Mr. Martin has been Mr. Van Nort's most confidential adviser ever since the day he became one of his bondsmen at the time of his appointment. Mr. Martin is an enlightened but strenuous advocate of the city improvements which Mr. Green has done all in his power to thwart. The Comptroller has assumed to dictate the management of the Central Park since he has held his present office, and the appointment of Mr. Martin to the Park Commission rebukes that assumption as no other appointment could. Nobody can predict to what extent Mr. Green may humiliate himself in the hope of retaining his office; but a man of pride and spirit would instantly resign after such treatment as he has received from the new Mayor. If he either waits to be put out or cravenly reverses his policy when he finds there is a Mayor whom he cannot cajole, the odium with which he is regarded will be suddenly changed to contempt. If, under the pointed rebukes of Mayor Wickham, Mr. Green passes from insolent swagger to abject submission the public will get a new glimpse of his real character.

Mayor Wickham favors the prosecution of

all important city improvements, including the Riverside roadway, the Morningside avenue, and especially the docks. He takes a deep interest in the question of rapid transit, and recognizes the fact that the problem is partially solved by the tunnelling of Fourth avenue and the immediate prospect of four steam tracks between Forty-second street and the upper part of the island, and by the Elevated Railroad on the west side of the city. He expresses his full approval of the action of Mayor Vance in expediting the payment of the city's share of the Fourth avenue improvements, and thereby administers another rebuke to the obstruction policy of Comptroller Green. He favors the early completion of the Brooklyn Bridge, and thinks it will hasten the consolidation of the two cities. He recommends the building of a new bridge across the Harlem River and an accurate survey of the newly annexed district. He would have the Park kept in perfect order and well policed, but would leave its improvement for a few years to the growth of its trees and shrubs, which will constantly add to its attractiveness. He thinks it would be wise to sell the market property and leave markets to private enterprise. He would have the cleaning of the streets taken from the Police Department and let out by contract. We will not follow in detail all the recommendations of this judicious Message, as they receive due attention in other articles on this page. We are confident that the whole community will agree with us that Mayor Wickham appears to great advantage in this first exposition of his policy.

## Governor Kellogg's Message.

After the federal soldiers had done their disgraceful work yesterday by dragging members of the Legislature from their seats and forcing the Speaker from his chair Kellogg sent in his Message, which we print this morning. We presume nobody even in New Orleans gave it any attention in the excited state of public feeling in that city, and it will be equally difficult to fix attention on it here in view of the startling news that comes with and eclipses it. The American people will insist on knowing whether State elections are to be respected and State Legislatures to be exempt from military violence before they will have patience to examine the statistics and recommendations put forth by a bogus, usurping Governor. There is a committee of Congress in New Orleans, and what the people of the country are most anxious to see is the report they will make on their return to Washington. When a house is on fire nobody cares to listen to a catalogue of proposed repairs, and until Louisiana is rescued from her prostration as a free State little interest can be felt in minor questions of State administration. Such of our citizens as have been bitten by the purchase of Louisiana bonds may run through Kellogg's Message with some interest, but few other people will care for his elaborate whitewashing of his own administration.

MAJOR WICKHAM AND THE POLICE.—Mayor Wickham is in favor of a police board non-partisan "in the fullest sense of the idea conveyed by that expression." In this declaration he strikes a popular idea. Every respectable citizen feels that the Police Commission has for the past two years been a scandal to the city. The appointments made on the Board under the new charter where they have not been disgraceful have been ridiculous. Not a single commissioner has been sent to Mulberry street who would be dreamed of for such a position by the citizens of New York if the office had been elective. There has been neither position, capacity nor character to commend the appointments to favor. It is no wonder that, under such a head, the police force should have become notoriously bad. As Mayor Wickham says, "There is no branch of the city government upon which the public welfare depends so much as upon the Police Department," and it is to be hoped that he will fulfil this promise to do all in his power to carry into practical operation his plan for making the Commission respectable and efficient.

THE MAYOR AND THE COMPTROLLER.—Mayor Wickham has very properly declined to accept the Comptroller's figures as representing the true financial condition of the city government, and contents himself with stating that he is not in a position at present to inform the Common Council what our public liabilities really are. A floating debt hangs over us, but no one knows its amount. The Mayor suggests that a balance sheet showing the financial position of the city at the close of the last year is demanded in the public interest, and promises to co-operate heartily in any measures the Common Council may adopt to procure such a balance sheet. The confusion, uncertainty and concealment manifest in our financial policy for three years past has been long denounced by the Herald as a serious evil, and we again remind Mayor Wickham that no satisfactory reform can be expected so long as Comptroller Green, the author of such a policy, remains at the head of the Finance Department.

JUSTICE AND HONESTY.—Mayor Wickham makes an excellent point in his Message on the honesty of paying our just debts with promptness. As a practical business man he can see no necessity for putting off an honest creditor because we are bound to resist the claims of a dishonest one. He admits that past mismanagement has rendered a vast amount of litigation unavoidable; but he bluntly declares that this is no good reason why just claimants to whom the city owes money should be forced into the courts to recover the money due to them. The Mayor pledges himself to aid the executive officers of the government in protecting the city against liabilities for which it is not by law responsible with all his power; but he distinctly announces that he will compel the prompt payment of all just and legal obligations, and will no longer permit vexatious and costly litigation. If Mayor Wickham will carry out effectively the programme he here lays down he will make his administration a success. But, in order to do so, he must rid the city of a Comptroller who will continue to compel vexatious litigation in spite of the Mayor.

IRWIN has concluded to answer all questions, if we may credit a despatch which we have received from Washington. The developments before the committee in New York have convinced him that the subsidy fund will be traced to its ultimate disbursement, and he thinks he may as well make a clear breast. But with these slippery people promise is not always equivalent to performance.

## The Prostration of Republican Government in Louisiana.

There was witnessed in the Louisiana State House yesterday a spectacle which is the first of its kind in this country, and which should cause every true American to blush with shame and indignation. A body of federal troops entered a legislative hall, took the Speaker from his chair, and forced a number of protesting members from their seats and marched them out with a soldier on each side, prepared to drag them along if they resisted. We congratulate the citizens of Louisiana and the people of the country that this extraordinary and most revolting scene did not provoke violence and bloodshed. Forcible resistance would have been justifiable in this case, if it be ever justifiable in any case—for a greater outrage on every principle of free government was never perpetrated—were it not for the fact that the people of Louisiana have a surer resource for the redress of their grievances in the sense of justice of the whole country and in the public resentment which will be kindled to the highest pitch by these atrocities and unexampled proceedings.

Every maxim of free government was violated and trodden under foot by the federal interference yesterday with the organization of a State Legislature. Our Declaration of Independence denounced the King of England for making the military superior to the civil authority, and for dissolving representative houses for opposing his invasions on the rights of the people. President Grant has done these very things by the use he made of the federal army in New Orleans yesterday. Of course the responsibility must rest on General Grant, for without his orders none of his military subordinates would have dared to interfere with the organization of a State Legislature. It cannot be pleaded that this was done to preserve the peace, for the citizens of New Orleans were never more quiet and orderly than at the time this great outrage on free institutions was perpetrated. It is a principle which pervades our system of government that every legislative body is the sole judge of the qualifications of its own members and of their right to seats—a principle so sacred that courts of justice never interfere with it or call it in question. But we are suddenly brought to such a pass that federal troops undertake to decide who are entitled to seats in a State Legislature and to eject members by force. The outrage is not extenuated by saying that the federal troops acted in obedience to Governor Kellogg, as was pretended, while these shameful scenes were enacting. No Governor of any State has the least shadow of right to interfere with the organization of its Legislature. Every State constitution, like the federal constitution, explicitly makes each legislative house the free, sole and unlimited judge of the right of claimants to sit as its members. Kellogg has no more right to decide that certain persons are not entitled to seats in the Louisiana Legislature and to put them out than the President has to pursue a similar course respecting members of Congress. Kellogg is guilty of a new usurpation when he assumes to make such a decision, and President Grant acts in the arbitrary and insolent spirit of Caesarism in encouraging such interference on the part of Kellogg and supporting him in it by the rude hand of military violence. No rights are held so sacred in all free governments as those of their Legislatures. All free constitutions protect them from every kind of Executive interference. Their members are privileged from arrest; they cannot be called in question in any other place for words spoken in debate; they can be expelled only by a two-thirds vote of the house to which they belong, and the ultimate decision on their right to seats is vested exclusively in that house and cannot be reviewed or reversed by any outside officer or body. All these constitutional principles, which have always been deemed essential to free government, were trampled under foot yesterday by federal soldiers in obedience to the orders of President Grant.

His only right to interfere in the domestic affairs of a State is for the purpose of suppressing violence. There was no violent resistance yesterday, either to State authority or federal authority, nor any offer of resistance or imminent danger of any. The President has no more right to unseat members of the Louisiana Legislature than he has to unseat members of the New York Legislature. The act of Congress which confers all the authority he possesses to employ federal troops in a State empowers him to use them only in case of "an insurrection in a State against the government thereof." The peaceable organization of the Louisiana Legislature was not an insurrection and justified no such high-handed proceedings as those which took place yesterday. The President's authority is limited in every case to the mere suppression of violence and preservation of order, and no stretch of the statute can make it extend to the organization of a Legislature and judging of the election and qualifications of its members. What General Grant has caused to be done in New Orleans will prove a finishing and irretrievable blow to him and the republican party, unless Congress shall promptly repair this monstrous injustice which was perpetrated under the eyes of one of its own committees.

## THE MAYOR AND THE PUBLIC WORKS.

Mayor Wickham declares himself in favor of proceeding with the public works at a pace as rapid as is required to keep up with the growth of the city, and he considers that this may be accomplished without increasing the debt beyond its present sum. Prompt payment of assessments, he reminds the property owners, is one means by which substantial results may be secured. He thinks the Riverside Park road should be proceeded with at once as an act of good faith toward the property owners, who have paid heavy assessments on the understanding that the work should be at once prosecuted to completion. He also considers that the work upon the road or avenue known as Morningside avenue should also be completed, as a large amount of money has been invested in it, and if it should be left in its present condition the city would in the end be at a heavy loss. The Mayor's opinions as to the manner in which the public works should be conducted will be read with interest, and it is to be hoped that his suggestions in relation to the improvement of our wretched pavements may be followed by practical results.

## The Situation in Spain and Our Relations with the Government.

Our correspondent in Paris has been favored with an interview by the new King. The young monarch impressed our representative favorably, and announced that to-morrow he will leave for Spain. Among other things he promises to help us in our Cuban troubles, which is possible, and to endeavor to return Gibraltar to Spain, which does not seem to be so feasible. He will strive to form a constitution like that of England, and intimates that he will pay the Spanish bondholders. Altogether, the young monarch has a captivating platform. There is a story that the father of Don Carlos, who abdicated in favor of his son, has given his adhesion; but this is one of the stories that will require confirmation before we can believe it.

It is interesting to note the strong influence which is brought to bear on public opinion in the United States for the purpose of securing a prompt recognition by the administration of the Alfontist usurpation. The journals are suddenly flooded with rosy despatches from Europe and Washington, telling us about the "enthusiasm" with which the new King is received; that the Carlists have suddenly resolved to disarm; that the great Powers are impatient to recognize Alfonso; that the Emperor of Germany has professed his willingness to do so at once; that the United States government will receive from the Spanish King a consideration that the Republic never bestowed; that we are to have "great reforms in Cuba;" that Jovellar, who was a brute when he commanded in Havana at the time of the Virginis massacre, has suddenly become an angel of mercy and reform, and that, after all, the Republic of Spain was a despised, contemptuous thing, and that we Americans should rejoice in its downfall.

Of course the policy of the United States is plain, so far as our relations with foreign governments are concerned. Spain's preferences are none of our business. But there is no country in Europe with whom our relations are in some respects as close as with Spain; none, certainly, upon whose government the diplomacy of the United States could have a more direct effect. When the Republic of Figueras was founded—not only founded by the act of a sovereign Cortes but approved by the votes of the sovereign Spanish people—the great Powers of Europe declined to recognize it, on the pretext that it had not suppressed the Carlist insurrection and therefore could not be considered as established. Just as soon, however, as Serrano drove out the Cortes by military power the European nations, with the exception of Russia, gave him their recognition which he refused to the will of the Spanish people; and now, when by another series of intrigues and military usurpations Alfonso comes back to Spain, all the machinery of the government, all the resources of diplomacy, the telegraph, the press, every avenue leading to public opinion and power are taken possession of for the purpose of forcing his recognition, not only by the European Powers but by the United States, as "the beginning of a new era of happiness, honor and peace."

This whole Alfontist movement is nothing but the culmination of an intrigue. The party this Prince represents was driven out of Spain because, for thirty years under the reign of his mother, it led that country from one degradation to another. Is the party any purer now than when it ruled Spain under the influence of Narvaez and O'Donnell and Serrano? And if not, it is the same corrupt, wretched, dishonest monarchy which for so many years was the disgrace and pain of Europe, what is there in this young King, this half-formed boy, not yet in the early years of manhood, fresh from his books and ponies, his tops and velocipedes, that he should suddenly renovate the monarchy and make it at once so fair and beautiful that republicans in America should hasten to give it recognition and strength? Our policy should be governed by this rule:—That when the monarchy is accepted by the voice of the people we will accord it recognition. Until Spain by its popular vote accepts Prince Alfonso as the King any act of recognition on the part of our administration would be in indecent haste, an approval of a usurpation and a reflection upon our own republican institutions.

STREET CLEANING.—The proposition made to the Common Council by Mayor Wickham that they shall take the control of the street cleaning business into their own hands, leaving to the police only the enforcement of such ordinances and regulations as the Aldermen may adopt, is an important one. The people have scarcely enough confidence in the Board of Aldermen to expect much benefit from their interference in the matter. The provision of the charter empowering the Common Council "to regulate the cleaning of the streets, avenues, sidewalks and gutters and removing ice and snow therefrom" seems to give them the power; but how would they exercise it? What jobs might not be covered up under their management? To be sure, the present Police Commissioners have made street cleaning a farce as well as a public outrage under their wretched management; but would the Aldermen do any better? Mayor Wickham might find it safer and more desirable to reform the Police Commission and then to leave the street cleaning business where it is. With the right sort of men at the head of the police force we should probably have clean streets, for the Street Cleaning Department would then be efficiently and honestly handled.

CHEAP HOMES.—The problem of cheap homes for the poor, which now excites the attention of all thoughtful men in New York, can only be solved by rapid transit. Let us have a railway system, under ground or over ground, which will enable a laboring man to leave his work at the Battery and be at his home in Yonkers or New Rochelle in twenty minutes, and all that section of Westchester county will be covered with cheap homes. The laboring man and the artisan will have their own dwellings, with a clear sky, fresh air, beautiful scenery and boulevards and streams, for Westchester is one of the most attractive sections in the State. Let them escape from the dirty, dingy, crowded quarters which now swarm the city with people who do not leave New York because they cannot. The absence of cheap homes, or the possibility of building them, has long been a

reproach to New York. Give us rapid transit, and this reproach will pass away.

## The Mayor and the Common Council.

Mayor Wickham is a strong advocate of home rule for the city of New York. He wishes that the entire legislative powers of the government shall be vested in the representatives of the people in the Common Council assembled, to be exercised subject to the approval of the Mayor. Errors or wrongs committed can be more easily remedied here, he holds, than at Albany. Hence he denounces in emphatic but not too forcible language the system of legislative charter tinkering through which the city government has heretofore been kept in an inefficient and irresponsible condition. At the same time he does not believe that under the existing law the Common Council is so powerless as has been generally supposed. He regards the authority vested in that body by section 90 of the charter to enact such necessary ordinances as may become requisite for "the fuller organization, perfecting and carrying out of the powers and duties prescribed to any department" as sufficient to place the departments virtually under the control of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor. This being the case the Common Council may make such provisions as may be necessary to enable the Mayor to require, and, if need be, to compel, from the heads of the several departments such an administration of the affairs of the city committed to their charge as will lead to greater efficiency in the future and a reduction of expense in securing it. The new policy is a bold one. Properly enforced it may be productive of good. It certainly raises the importance of the Aldermen in the city government.

THE DESIRE FOR PEACE.—We learn by the cable that the Emperor of Germany expressed himself on New Year's Day as yearning for peace, and saying that the duty of Germany would now be to "preserve the peace." Considering that there have only been three wars in Europe in ten years, and that this illustrious sovereign was the cause of them all; that last year his Minister was threatening France with a new invasion if the bishops did not moderate their tone and the French women did not behave more civilly to the German Ambassador, this aspiration is an instructive and interesting phenomenon. The Emperor of Germany will only be the friend of peace when he has no interests that can be served by war.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. Oliver Ames, of Boston, is staying at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

It is not true that Susan B. has offered to darn Samm's silk stockings.

Tom Karl, the tenor, is among the latest arrivals at the Westmoreland Hotel.

The Charley Ross found in Wisconsin seems the most likely one yet discovered.

Professor F. L. Ritter, of Vassar College, is returning at the Everett House.

Professor Mark Bailey, of Yale College, is residing temporarily at the Irving House.

Congressman Thomas C. Platt, of Oswego, N. Y., is registered at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Captain Hamilton Perry, of the steamship Adriatic, is quartered at the St. Nicholas Hotel.

Congressman John O. Whitehouse, of Poughkeepsie, is stopping at the Albemarle Hotel.

Commodore Francis B. Elison, United States Navy, has apartments at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

H. Alford insists, as reported, that members of Assembly shall take the new oath. Alford is right.

Adjutant General Franklin Townsend, of Governor Tilden's staff, has arrived at the St. James Hotel.

Monton paid \$5,000 for publishing what Henry told him; but nobody proposes to sue Henry about it.

King Kalakaua greatly enjoyed Almée in opera bouffe at the Globe Theatre in Boston last evening.

Mr. S. S. Merrill, General Manager of the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company, is at the Hoffman House.

Butler looks upon his defeat as a blessing in disguise. Other people, also; but they regard the disguise as thin.

General A. G. Lawrence, formerly United States Minister to Costa Rica, arrived last evening at the Albemarle Hotel.

At the Cape of Good Hope they have found a diamond weighing 200 carats. It has been sent to Amsterdam to be cut by Herr Cassa.

It is considered in English politics that a famine in Bengal is a failure unless the man who happens to be Viceroy at the time is made an earl.

Lieutenant Colonel Barton S. Alexander, of the Engineer corps, United States Army, has taken up his residence at the New York Hotel.

Congressmen E. R. Hoar, George F. Hoar and B. W. Harris, of Massachusetts, arrived in this city last evening and are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Every man killed in New Orleans will represent an addition of one hundred thousand votes in favor of the next democratic candidate for the Presidency.

Dr. Deems, of the Church of the Strangers, goes to Florida for a month's rest, after upward of eight years' continuous service. Dr. Moran has charge of his church meantime.

The report going the rounds of the press that Jefferson Davis is ill has no foundation in fact. He is in as good health now as at any time for several years, and appears on the streets of Memphis almost daily.

There is one poor wretch who may be benefited by the accession of Alfonso, and that is Prince Perkins, who was lately incarcerated at Paris. As his wife is now the cousin of a King there may be help for him.

Captain J. H. Donovan, of the Seventeenth infantry, went to Europe by the City of Montreal on five months' leave of absence. Although the Captain was somewhat knocked to pieces in the war and notably at Malvern Hill and Fredericksburg, there is enough left of him to recuperate in a trip to Europe.

In England Mr. Alfred Rubery has sired Albert Grant and Mr. Sampson, formerly of the London Times, for libel, in charging him with being a party to the "great California diamond swindle."

In the course of the trial it was testified that Grant said to plaintiff "what he could do would be liked with the money article in the Times—that he had Sampson under his thumb."

Near to Colombo, in India, a snake, seeing a parrot in a cage, made its way to a place where it could make an attack upon the parrot. A child observing this, and not knowing the danger, grasped the snake by the tail, while the snake and the parrot attacked each other. Just then an elder sister, observing the little one in danger, snatched the child away, and in so doing pulled the snake out of the cage. At this moment a dog came up and among them all they despatched the snake. The dog, the snake and the parrot all died from the effects of the encounter, but neither of the girls received any injury.

A gentleman in a Western city, sitting in a pew with a lady with whom he had formerly been on terms of intimate acquaintance, handed her a Bible with a pin stuck through the following verse:—"And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another." After reading it she stuck the pin through the following verse and handed the book back to him:—"Having many things to write unto you I would not write with paper and ink, but I trust to come unto you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full."